

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & NIGERIA

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$7,623,615, including \$269,331 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Nigeria.



The United States views its support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a critical part of its efforts to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. About 25% of the IAEA's annual budget for peaceful nuclear assistance comes from the U.S. In 2012, the U.S. contributed almost \$22 million to the Technical Cooperation Fund and over \$6 million in additional funding for training, fellowships, and cost-free experts.

In addition to these longstanding contributions to the IAEA's peaceful uses programs, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the U.S. announced a \$100 million Initiative to further expand this support over the next five years. The U.S. pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development. The U.S. has already allocated over \$27 million to specific PUI projects, and welcomes the contributions of Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan to this important Initiative.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

The need for electricity, economic competitiveness and environmental considerations have increasingly led a large number of Member States to consider nuclear power as an energy development option and seek assistance from the IAEA. Nigeria is currently participating in a regional TC project

sponsored by the U.S. to increase awareness of the requirements and challenges related to the feasibility of nuclear power programs. The project addresses regional priorities and concerns related to nuclear energy, including the requirements for conducting comprehensive studies to explore the feasibility of nuclear power, developing nuclear safety frameworks, and promoting regional cooperation and common understanding about major nuclear power issues, such as nuclear material, radioactive waste management, legal and safety obligations, human and financial resources, and reliable technologies.

Nigeria is also working through a national TC project sponsored by the United States to evaluate the role of nuclear power for electricity generation in future options.

Surging interest in nuclear energy has also created new challenges for those African countries with uranium resources and other radioactive ores as many lack appropriate legislative frameworks for regulating activities related to uranium exploration and exploitation in order to protect their interests, the environment and the public at large. Nigeria is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to strengthen participating Member States' capabilities for effective and efficient management of uranium resources and other radioactive ores, as well as to build the legislative framework to effectively regulate related activities.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

The use of nuclear technology has great potential to help shape the future of developing countries, but is not without some risk. In recognition of this, Nigeria recently participated in a regional TC project funded by the United States to strengthen national

1. *International radiation measurement exercise. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA*
2. *Deep wells and diesel pumps are the water lifeline for many rural residents. Credit: David Kinley III/IAEA*
3. *Nuclear techniques can make cocoa trees resistant to a virus that kills millions each year. Credit: David Kinley III/IAEA*

regulatory infrastructures for the control of radiation sources. Nigeria currently participates in another regional TC project, also funded by the U.S. to maintain these regulatory infrastructures and enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Self-assessment and regional networking can also significantly contribute to strengthening national regulatory infrastructures, so Nigeria is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to improve the performance of regulatory systems and conform to the requirements of international standards through self-assessment and enhanced regional cooperation. Nigeria is also extending its cooperation by participating in an interregional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to strengthen cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources in the Mediterranean region.

RADIATION PROTECTION

Through additional U.S.-sponsored regional TC projects, Nigeria is also currently working to strengthen occupational radiation protection, radiation protection of patients during medical exposure, as well as control of public exposures.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Radiation emergencies not only risk injury to individuals, but can also contaminate large territories and affect the living conditions of communities. Nigeria is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to strengthen participating countries' national arrangements for response to radiological and nuclear emergencies and improve their compliance with international standards.

HUMAN HEALTH

While radiotherapy is a well-known nuclear technology used for cancer treatment, the lack of adequate human resources in many centers in the African region negatively affects the accessibility and quality of care

available for cancer patients. Nigeria is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to determine the number of professionals working in each country, assess and improve existing training programs, and establish training programs in countries where they don't exist.

Additionally, one of the greatest challenges developing countries face in fighting cancer is devising plans for building cancer control capacity. Through the IAEA's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), the IAEA has conducted impACT reviews with funding contributions from the United States in 18 countries, including Nigeria. These reviews evaluate the country's readiness to implement cancer control programs, assess the national cancer burden, and provide recommendations on developing the country's cancer control capacity.

AGRICULTURE

In addition to land degradation, many regions in Africa are also vulnerable to climatic variability and frequent droughts. In such context, the introduction and adaptation of irrigation is a key factor for increasing crop production, reducing vulnerability to food deficits and contributing to income generation for resource-poor farmers. Nuclear and isotopic techniques can offer the ability to unravel interactions between water, soil, and applied and existing nutrient pools, providing great insight into the productivity and effectiveness of various irrigation systems. Nigeria is therefore currently participating in a regional project sponsored by the United States to develop and pilot test appropriate irrigation systems, methods and related water-nutrient management practices for small-scale farmers in order to increase yield, quality of crops and income.

WATER RESOURCES

The sustainability of groundwater resources for drinking water supplies, agriculture, and industry is a prime concern for some countries, particularly

those dominated by arid and semi-arid climates. Nigeria is therefore participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to promote the integrated management and sustainable development of the shared groundwater resources in the Sahel region.

ACCELERATORS

Accelerator based techniques have been demonstrated to be particularly competitive in providing data and information to help solve problems with regard to the environment, geology, industry and energy. Nigeria is currently working through a U.S. sponsored national TC project to deploy an accelerator at the Centre for Energy Research and Development (CERD) to support national economic development programs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To contribute to Member States' development, the IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses through which numerous fellows and training course participants travel to the United States. Since 2000, the U.S. has hosted multiple training courses that included Nigerian participants in fields such as decommissioning, isotope data interpretation, insect pest control, nuclear power and nuclear safety infrastructure, quality assurance in radiotherapy, and long-range nuclear energy strategies. Training was also provided through the IAEA Fellowship Program to eight Nigerians, four of which were sponsored by the United States, in fields including radiation protection, nuclear instrumentation, and contaminants and residues in food and the environment.

Additionally, since 2000, eight U.S. experts have traveled to Nigeria to collaborate through various IAEA Technical Cooperation projects. Topics included quality assurance and control, educational programs, workforce development, technology assessment, and legislative and regulatory requirements.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20520 | www.state.gov